

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3403

September 26, 2003

Andrea Newman
Senior Vice President
Government Affairs
Northwest Airlines Inc.
901 15th St., NW #310
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Andi:

As you know, the Pentagon recently approved a rest and recuperation leave program for forces in Iraq serving 12-month deployments. As I'm sure you can understand, many of our brave men and women will take this 15-day leave opportunity to visit loved ones stateside. However, it is my understanding that our soldiers are encountering difficulties in finding reasonable airfares to North Dakota from the destinations to which the military is transporting them, specifically Atlanta, Baltimore, Dallas, or Los Angeles.

In fact, I have already heard from one of my North Dakota constituents whose daughter was fortunate enough to receive one of the initial slots for this leave program. He is now concerned that his daughter will have trouble securing reasonable air fare to come back home and visit her family

I urge your every consideration to take into account the situation faced by our brave men and women serving in Iraq and to institute some type of special fare. Our troops are risking their lives on our behalf and facing extended separation from loved ones in the process. The least we can do is to allow them the opportunity to visit these loved ones in a cost-effective manner.

Again, Andi, thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,



KENT CONRAD
United States Senate

KC:wdm